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No Fee Unless You Win!

Mumia off death row after 30 years

- US Supreme Court refused to hear appeal to reinstate original death sentence
- Appellate court had thrown it out
- Philly DA could start over or close case {page 03}

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

Bar scene. Barcade

▶ Frankford Avenue's newest bar brings together two of the best things in the world: beer and arcade games.

When a group of guys came up with the idea to open the first Barcade in Brooklyn, N.Y.'s Williamsburg section, they must have realized they stumbled upon brilliance. They opened their third location Monday in Fishtown and it's already a hit. {page 02}

News

'Global narrative of anger'

- Occupy protests take cue from recent Arab uprisings
- Unrest and dissent spans US, Europe, world {pages 06-07}

Is Beyonce a 'Beautiful Liar'?

New conspiracy theory calls destiny's child a sham {page 08}

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Voucher plan as part of Corbett reform

Gov. Tom Corbett unveiled his education reform plan yesterday, which includes a voucher program for students near the state's lowest-performing schools and new teacher evaluations.

The tuition assistance would benefit students in attendance zones for the bottom 5 percent of schools whose parents earn 130 percent or less of the federal poverty rate. That means $29,000 for a family of four, and the voucher could be used for a public or private school. It would affect about 140 schools in the state.

"We can't guarantee their success, but we owe all students a fighting chance," Corbett said, speaking at a charter school in York.

Education advocates in Philadelphia criticized the governor's plan for being exclusive and costly months after he cut $1 billion from public education in his first budget. Due to the small percentage of students eligible, it would just take necessary resources away from already-struggling schools, they claim.

SOLOMON D. LEACH

More plans

- **Increase** the educational improvement tax credit.
- **A state entity** to approve, license, oversee charters.
- **Teacher ratings** based on student performance and classroom observation.

Bringing together video games, beer

Fishtown's Frankford Avenue now home to 'Barcade,' new bar with arcade Third spot — already popular joints in Brooklyn and Jersey City

What do craft beer and vintage arcade games have in common?

Nerds, according to one owner of Fishtown's recently opened Barcade, the third outpost of the Brooklyn-based drinking establishment-video arcade hybrid. "There are beer nerds and there are video game nerds," Pete Langway said.

"We've found that we get craft beer drinkers who are really passionate. And people that are into arcade games are really passionate about that," said another owner, Paul Kermizian. "I think we've turned one group onto another and there's actually been a lot of crossover, with gamers turning into beer geeks and vice versa."

Barcade was launched six years ago by five friends in Brooklyn's Williamsburg neighborhood. "We literally opened the bar that the five of us wanted to hang out in because we're into craft beer and we're into games," Kermizian said. "We were taking a chance because it's not an obvious mix."

But the concept has taken off, with a Jersey City branch opening in 2010. The long-anticipated Barcade Philadelphia, whose plans were announced in July of last year, is the group's third establishment.

"Philadelphia was an easy decision because there's a great beer scene. And Fishtown felt right because there are a lot of already cool, established places and an artsy and working class mix," said Kermizian.

"You can drink beer anywhere. You can play video games anywhere. You can't drink and play video games anywhere else."
CUSTOMER JEFF SMITH, 21

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Co-owners Pete Langway, left, and Scott Beard think Fishtown and Brooklyn share similarities.

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
awigglesworth@metro.us

Fishtown attracts NYCers

Fishtown has a similar vibe to Williamsburg, according to Langway.

"The same kinds of changes are going on and the same kinds of people are living here," he said. "Both are historically working class neighborhoods where the artists moved in first, bars opened up and young people came for cheaper rent. That covers a lot of our customer base."

Langway said many, including Barcade owner Scott Beard, are making the move from Brooklyn to Philly.

He noted: "Philadelphia is attractive to people from Brooklyn, where rents are going up. It seems like you get more for your money and the same type of city experience."

METRO/AW

POST YOUR COMMENTS: WWW.METRO.US/PHL

▶ Jacoby

Cop charged with fraud

PHILADELPHIA. A Philadelphia police officer has been charged with stealing debit cards and credit cards from individuals in police custody and buying personal items.

Charles Jacoby III, an officer in the 22nd District, allegedly took the cards from temporary storage to to buy gas for his personal car, prosecutors allege.

METRO/SDL

Curfew hearings this week

CITY HALL. City Council will begin hearings tomorrow on a bill restricting teen curfews and increasing fines for parents.

The bill would lower the curfew to 8 p.m. for children 13 and younger, 9 p.m. for those 14 and 15, and 10 p.m. for 16- and 17-year-olds. Fines for parents would increase from $25 to $75. METRO/AW

In the news

Fire alarms everywhere

As part of Fire Prevention Week, the Philadelphia Fire Department will conduct a Citywide Home Fire Drill at Saint Matthew Manor tonight at 7:30. Officials will be present to teach families how to conduct home fire drills.

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Death sentence for Mumia thrown out

US Supreme Court won't hear appeal to rejection of 30-year-old death penalty sentence, leaves ultimatum

The U.S. Supreme Court effectively wiped out 30 years of debate regarding the fate of Mumia Abu-Jamal yesterday when it rejected a request from the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office to re-impose the death sentence for the convicted cop-killer.

The highest court's refusal to get involved in the racially charged case — centered on the murder of a white Philadelphia police officer, Daniel Faulkner — means prosecutors must either start over again or agree to a life sentence. Earlier this year, a federal appeals court ordered a new sentencing hearing after concluding that the death penalty instructions given to the jury during the 1982 trial were misleading. Mumia supporters were pleasantly surprised.

▶ Mumia

"It's a partial victory, because Mumia will not die on death row. But a complete victory would be a new trial so this man could be released," said local defense attorney Michael Coard. "If you give him a new trial, I don't care if it's a first-year law student, he'll be found not guilty."

Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 5 President John McNesby saw it differently.

"We're going to wait and see what happens and talk to Maureen [Faulkner] and see what her wishes are. This has been dragging on, and it's got to be tough for the family as many years as it's been going on," McNesby said.

District Attorney Seth Williams' office has not decided whether to pursue a new penalty hearing or to let Abu-Jamal die in prison.

SOLOMON D. LEACH
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PAIGE OZAROSKI

Fashion. Hilfiger speaks

▶ Hilfiger shared insight about his years of success in the fashion business.

Celebrity designer visits PhilaU

Renowned celebrity fashion titan Tommy Hilfiger answered questions from students at Philadelphia University yesterday afternoon inside the Gallagher Center. The university gave him the Spirit of Design Award. METRO

Couple dead in creek crash

NORTHEAST PHILADELPHIA. A second elderly woman who was trapped inside a car that plunged into Pennypack Creek died late Monday, police said.

Authorities said the accident happened at 1:42 p.m. Monday when the unidentified elderly driver lost control of a 2006 Lincoln Continental, hit a guard rail and went down an embankment before landing in the creek.

The driver was declared dead at the scene. Passenger Elizabeth Jones, 71, was pronounced dead at Aria Torresdale Hospital.
METRO/SDL

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Opinion

ROB WONDERLING
PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE GREATER PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BUILDING ON OCCUPY CALL

If you've walked by City Hall recently (or turned on the local news), you've seen and heard the protesters labeled "Occupy Philadelphia."

What started as a movement on Wall Street has moved to various cities throughout the country. Protesters have expressed everything from eliminating the Federal Reserve to nationalizing the banking system. Many students are demanding lower tuition, room and board, while others want to bring our soldiers home from overseas.

Quoted

"The consequences of doing nothing will impact our economy, environment and public safety."
WONDERLING

One protester sign in particular, however caught my attention. It read something like: "Support funding for our crumbling infrastructure." Now that's a movement I can get behind.

Pennsylvania's infrastructure is aging significantly due to decades of underinvestment. Roadways, bridges, transit, aviation and ports have all suffered from insufficient funding, creating significant maintenance backlogs.

Addressing these issues now will jump-start our economy and provide long-term benefits to our regional economic competitiveness. I am hopeful that the governor and General Assembly will work cooperatively this fall to make these much-needed investments.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages. Opposing viewpoints are welcome. Please send 300-word submissions to letters@metro.us.

Come rain or shine? Occupy hunkers down

RICARD LARMA/METRO

▶ These solar panels set up at Occupy Philly's City Hall tent town won't produce much power today with rain expected.

▶ Organizers brace for storm ▶ Rain expected to fall heavily all today ▶ Police overtime also pouring in as day seven began this morning

Occupy Philly protesters scrambled yesterday evening to make preparations for the coming rain. 2011 is expected to be the second-wettest year in Philadelphia history by the week's end.

Organizers sought donations of tarps and plastic bins to cover food and medical supplies, umbrellas and ponchos for protesters and palettes to put under tents.

"It's about sustainability," a woman from the food committee said. "We need to cover the food and other supplies to make sure they don't go to waste."

In the meantime, police presence around the campsite was noticeably increased yesterday.

Police said that their show of force was due to the fact that, after a long holiday weekend, the mayor and the judiciary were back in City Hall. "It's a safety issue," one officer said. "This is a major government building."

The sleep-in has reportedly cost the city $164,000 in police overtime so far.

Ironically, Occupy Philly plans to march today to a nearby Wells Fargo and present a bill for millions in public dollars spent in swap agreements that could have gone to the city and school district. They will also join city property workers' union 32-BJ in a rally as they exit City Hall following a resolution hearing at City Council.

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RICARD LARMA/METRO

Cape May eyes smoking ban

NEW JERSEY. An ordinance set to ban smoking year-round along the Cape May shore and boardwalk will be introduced Oct. 18.

Other beaches in Ocean and Monmouth counties have enacted smoking bans, including Belmar and Seaside Heights, but Cape May would be the first ocean beach in Cape May County, according to The Press of Atlantic City.

Karen Blumenfeld of Global Advisors on Smoke-free Policy told the newspaper that the ordinance will cut down on litter and secondhand smoke.

KARI BESTRYCKI

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SOVM9367SREG 9/11

US colleges ranked by expense: Forbes

Most costly schools are in more urban areas, finance mag reports ◐ New York, Chicago claim top of the list

Higher education in the United States is not cheap; but Sarah Lawrence College in New York, with total costs of $58,334 a year, is the most expensive college in the country, according to a new ranking.

For the second consecutive year, this small liberal arts college north of New York City — with 1,300 undergraduate students — topped the Forbes.com list of priciest colleges.

It is followed by the University of Chicago with a yearly price tag of $57,590 and the New School in New York, which costs $57,199 a year.

Forbes.com estimates that the all-in price at Sarah Lawrence would cost nearly $240,000 for a four-year course of studies if current inflation continues.

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STANFORD AND CCNY PARTNER TO FORM STANFORD@CCNY FOR APPLIED SCIENCES CAMPUS. WHAT KIND OF OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE CREATED AS WEST COAST MEETS EAST COAST?

"Just about all of the top 10 schools are in very expensive urban areas," said Daniel Fisher, a senior editor at Forbes. "I think you just have to pay your employees more to live and work in a place like Bronxville, New York."

But Forbes noted that many U.S. colleges and universities discount costs depending on the parents' ability to pay, and that more than half the students at the priciest institutions pay significantly less than the full price tag.

"They are figuring out which students they want in the schools and what their parents can actually pay," Fisher says. REUTERS

PHOTOS.COM

Chocolate. Stroke risk

▶ "Chocolate should be consumed in moderation, as it is high in calories, fat and sugar," says Susanna Larsson from Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm (not pictured).

Indulge for your health?

A sweet tooth isn't necessarily bad for your health — at least not when it comes to chocolate, hints a new study. Researchers studying more than 33,000 Swedish women found that the more chocolate women said they ate, the lower their risk of stroke. The results add to a growing body of evidence linking cocoa consumption to heart health, but they aren't a free pass to gorge on chocolate. REUTERS

Iranians charged in political bomb plot

WASHINGTON. U.S. authorities broke up an alleged plot to bomb the Israeli and Saudi Arabian embassies in Washington and assassinate the Saudi ambassador to the United States, court documents and a U.S. official said yesterday.

The alleged plotters were identified as Manssor Arbabsiar and Gholam Shakuri — both originally from Iran. Arbabsiar, a naturalized U.S. citizen, was arrested in late September. Shakuri is still at large.

The plot was disrupted by the FBI and DEA.

One question is whether elements of the Iranian government were behind the plot. Documents identify Shakuri as a member of the Quds Force, a branch of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps. REUTERS

ADVERTORIAL

Orleans Technical Institute Training Offers a Room With a View...of the Future

6-Month Telecommunications Program Provides Job Training in "Smart Room," Wireless & Security Technologies

People love their gadgets: smartphones, HD, wireless, on demand, satellite dishes, home theaters, security systems. As these technologies continue to evolve at home and at work, so does the demand for Telecommunications workers to help keep us online and in touch.

A career in Telecommunications is more than installing cable boxes at customers' homes. Those training in the **6-month "Telecommunications Technician" program at Orleans Technical Institute,** in Northeast Philadelphia, are gaining job skills that are hands-on and high-tech. Designed with the input of representatives from Comcast, Verizon, Dish Network and other industry employers, the curriculum prepares students to provide commercial or residential installations and troubleshooting of wired and wireless technologies, fiber optics, advanced entertainment systems, cable and satellite communications, alarm systems, and more.

"Because of the building of more advanced communication networks, such as fiber optic lines and faster wireless networks, there is a greater need by businesses to have qualified people to install complex cable and Internet-based systems," said Debbie Bello, admissions director at Orleans Technical Institute. Bello says that there are still seats open for the October 24, 2011, start of Orleans' Telecommunications Technician training program. For those interested in learning more, **Orleans is holding an open house on Saturday, October 15, 2011 at 10am.**

The Telecommunications classroom experience is a combination of lecture and lab with state-of-the-art equipment, as students learn how communications networks are designed and made operational. Hands-on instruction is provided on network construction techniques, the handling and splicing of cable television, satellite and fiber optic cables. The curriculum includes courses in voltage, circuits and electricity.

"I worked at two different companies and left because I sensed that layoffs were right around the corner," said Kevin Whitley, 28, of Pennypack Woods in the Northeast. "At Orleans, they treat it more like a job site than a classroom. Attending the Telecommunications program has definitely helped my family's future, and got my foot in the door in the industry."

A unique feature of the Telecommunications training program is their "smart room," which will be shown during the Oct. 15 open house. Built by Orleans' carpentry students and featuring elements of other popular Orleans Tech skills training programs—Residential & Commercial Electricity and Building Maintenance—the house is a showcase of the "Green Skills" taught in Orleans Tech's Telecommunications program. Students train in the "smart room" with energy-saving technologies such as heat and biosensors, motion sensors, and reduced voltage lighting displays.

This comprehensive training program has led Orleans Tech's students to find employment with already established, industry-leading cable companies, utility companies, alarm companies, and transportation companies. ***"Employers have contacted me eager to hire graduates from this program,"*** said Gary Lachow, director of career services at Orleans Technical Institute.

Orleans graduates are also eligible for nationally recognized industry certifications through C-Tech Associates upon successful completion of course work and passing a standardized certification test.

For more information about Orleans Telecommunications Technician training and program disclosures, visit **www.orleanstech.edu** or call **215-728-4700.**

"We have an 84% job placement rate for Orleans Telecommunications students who graduated between 6/1/10 and 5/31/11."
– Gary Lachow, Director of Career Services at Orleans Technical Institute

Kevin Whitley graduated from Orleans Technical Institute, where he learned the skills to address Telecommunications needs in new and existing construction, such as copper wiring, fiber optic cabling, home theaters, cable TV, satellite, "smart home," and alarm technology.

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analysis

OWS: AMERICAN

Winter is coming, but for many US cities it seems that spring has sprung anew Protesters taking cue from a series of global uprisings What the Web has wrought

After the "Arab Spring" and unrest in Europe, New York's "Occupy Wall Street" movement may be the latest sign of a global, popular backlash against elites with increasingly shared rhetoric and tactics.

On almost every continent, 2011 has seen an almost unprecedented rise in both peaceful and sometimes violent unrest and dissent. Protesters in a lengthening list of countries including Israel, India, Chile, China, Britain, Spain and now the United States all increasingly link their actions explicitly to the popular revolutions that have shaken up the Middle East.

"What you're seeing is a loss of confidence in institutions and their legitimacy because they are not seen as delivering."
JONATHAN WOOD, ANALYST

The slogans on the streets of Manhattan and other U.S. cities also show a host of other intermingling influences, from the British student protests last year to the "indignados" anti-austerity demonstrations in Greece and Spain.

What they all share in common is a feeling that the youth and middle class are paying a high price for mismanagement and malfeasance by an out-of-touch corporate, financial and political elite.

When hundreds of protesters blocked London's Westminster Bridge on Sunday in anger at upcoming changes to Britain's National Health Service, they took on slogans from U.S. protesters who describe themselves as the "99 percent" paying the price for

▶ Occupy Wall Street protestors and union members stage a protest near Wall Street in New York.

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SPRING?

EMMANUEL DUNAND/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

mistakes by a tiny minority.

With the economic outlook darkening just as the growth of social media helps disparate groups around the world knit together a global narrative of anger, there may be more to come.

"This is most definitely going to be a multi-year trend, perhaps even a decade," says Tina Fordham, chief political analyst for U.S. bank Citi. "So far the policy impact has been minimal, but that could change. An extended period of low or no growth could galvanize these emerging movements into political forces."

While those largely leaderless groups taking to the streets might be getting better at articulating what they are against, they still struggle to define what they actually want. But they are still gaining traction.

Already, the tactic of occupying a location — be it a park, the central square in an Arab city or a university common room — appears to be becoming commonplace, allowing debate and providing a focal point from which to engage the media and authority. So too are "days of rage," a term first used during the Middle East risings, not to mention the use of social media and messaging systems to stay one step ahead of authorities. **REUTERS**

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World Wide Web

COMSTOCK

What the Internet revolution is doing, some experts suggest, is leading to perhaps a new internationalization of political discourse. If nothing else, different protest trends around the world — many motivated at least in part by perceived economic grievance — may be producing a common narrative.

- When English student and occasional fashion blogger Jessica Riches, then 21, began posting Twitter updates from a student sit-in at University College London late last year, her postings and online interactions inspired like-minded students elsewhere. That led to a string of other "occupations" across Britain and fueled further protests against planned tuition fee rises.
- This didn't stop the coalition government pushing through the reforms — part of a wider debt-reduction strategy — but now Riches feels she is seeing the beginnings of something more.
- **"There's definitely something in the air."** **JESSICA RICHES**
- Riches is now avidly following events in New York online and encouraging activists in the United States to "occupy everything." "In many ways, they remind me of us last year."
- Clay Shirky, a professor at New York University and author of a 2008 book titled "Here Comes Everybody" on the social change wrought by the Internet, thinks something deep may be happening to the social psychology of a generation.
- "If you look at what's happened everywhere, there is some kind of psychological synchronization," he told a meeting in Washington last month at the United States Institute for Peace. **REUTERS**

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Businessmen look on at Wall Street.

The response from Wall St.

NEW YORK. Since the movement kicked off last month, big banks seem to have made a point of ignoring it, with some privately writing it off as a badly organized nuisance.

One banker described the protesters as "a bunch of whiny people who are lazy or incompetent and have nothing to do with their time."

But they are paying attention. "I think this thing will continue to grow," said Robert Siegfried, a partner at Kekst & Co. "For anyone to dismiss it, that's a terrible underestimation of the sentiment behind this phenomena." **REUTERS**

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THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

The feed ...

Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Jim Carrey is worried about how we look, Jonah Hill is thinking outside the box, Rose McGowan is a happy traveler and Joan Rivers is getting schooled by a kid.

@JimCarrey
If future historians look back 2 the blogs of our day 4 reference material it'll be a piss poor account of who we r. Or is that who we r?

@JonahHill
Every urinal has no-flush technology if you just don't care.

@rosemcgowan
In London! Yippee

@Joan_Rivers
I asked my grandson, Cooper, if he knew where babies came from. Very smart! He said, "Of course...Brad and Angelina's house."

Rose McGowan

Beyonce pregnancy conspiracy theories

There's an entire movement of people who think **Beyonce** is faking her pregnancy (from here on out, they shall be referred to as "bumpers"). These bumpers first pointed to Beyonce's appearance at the VMAs and claimed she used padding. And now their cause is further inflamed thanks to an interview with an Australian TV show that aired on Sunday. If you look at the still from the show, you can see that when she sits down, her belly seems to crumple and deflate. I think she is using some kind of bump smoother or enhancer (when you are in the second trimester, sometimes your belly might be more fat than adorable. So she's wearing a kind of undergarment that smooths it out into an aesthetically pleasing bump).

However, there are many conspiracy theories out there. One is that Beyonce is hiring a surrogate to go through the pain (and the sloppy postpartum body) that comes with pregnancy. And another is that **Jay-Z** has fathered another child and the couple plans on passing it off as their own. These are both foolish. There is no reason for someone as beautiful, talented and rich as Beyonce to agree to this embarrassing charade. Sasha Fierce don't play that.

The only thing that possibly makes sense is that Beyonce is actually a robot and can't have babies. And, honestly, if I weren't so sure she was wearing a bump smoother, I'd go for this one. That girl cannot be human, right?

Beyonce bumpers are in a tizzy over what's in that bump. Fetus or pillow? Just wait until the birth certificate controversy, folks.

Yvette Noel-Schure, Beyonce's rep, told ABC News the rumors are "stupid, ridiculous and false."

What is Simpson hiding?

Speaking of bumps, check out this photo of **Jessica Simpson,** who is artfully hiding something underneath that black blazer of hers. And now there is news that after months of speculation, she is reportedly gearing up to announce her pregnancy, a source close to Simpson's fiance, **Eric Johnson**, tells Radar Online. "It's still early in the pregnancy, and Jessica has decided to wait before sharing her happiness with her fans," the source says. "But she has begun telling family and friends the exciting news." Simpson is expected to go public with the news as an exclusive for a magazine, the website claims.

Simpson on Saturday. Why aren't the bumpers attacking her?

Talking points

Ashton and Demi's punked camping trip

Ashton Kutcher and **Demi Moore** spent the Yom Kippur holiday getting away from it all, camping near Santa Barbara, Calif., with their Kabbalah instructor in tow, according to Hollyscoop. The couple didn't seem at all pleased when spotted by other campers, though. "Demi was screaming 'Please don't take photos of me or my family. Please don't expose this,'" a source says. "Once she knew she had been photographed, she whistled at Ashton and gestured for him to hurry into the tent. It was obvious that Demi was showing the strain about the state of her marriage."

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DOROTHY ROBINSON'S WORD BLOG

George Clooney still in love

George Clooney and **Stacy Keibler** are enjoying autumn by avoiding it all together. The new couple jetted off to Cabo San Lucas over the weekend, with Keibler posting a photo of a palm tree-lined, beachside swimming pool with the comment, "Chasing the last days of summer." Clooney and Keibler, who celebrates her 32nd birthday Friday, "have great physical chemistry," a source tells Us Weekly. "George is very sweet to Stacy. He gives her a lot of attention."

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A laser light show for your Wednesday

1. French performer Jean Michel Jarre performed on his signature laser harp at Belgrade Arena yesterday in Belgrade, Serbia. Serbs love laser harps.
2. James Blunt melted thousands of German hearts with his mega hit "You're Beautiful" yesterday in Dusseldorf.
3. Oscar-winning director Martin Scorsese attended a screening of "Hugo" at Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center, yesterday in New York City.
4. Judi Dench and co-star Penny Ryder attended a screening of their new short film, "Friend Request Pending" yesterday in London.
5. "Real Housewives of New Jersey" star Teresa Guidice during a photo shoot in Towaco, New Jersey, yesterday.
6. Bruno Mars arrived at his after-show party after performing in Milan, Italy, yesterday.
7. Elisabeth Rohm attended the "Sustainability Panel Discussion" yesterday in New York City.

1: SRDJAN STEVANOVIC/WIREIMAGE; 2: PETER WAFZIG/GETTY IMAGES; 3: JAMIE MCCARTHY/GETTY IMAGES; 4: SAMIR HUSSEIN/GETTY IMAGES; 5: DAVE KOTINSKY/GETTY IMAGES; 6: PIER MARCO TACCA/GETTY IMAGES; 7: ROBIN MARCHANT/GETTY IMAGES

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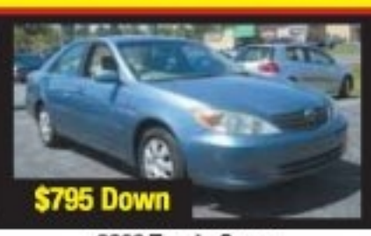
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3 Memorable moments in undead evolution

Vampires didn't just pop out of the grave with sparkling skin and movie deals Dracula expert Leslie Klinger takes us through the history of blood suckers

Backwoods monsters

More otherworldly pests than romantic immortals, vampires have their roots in folklore and were often blamed for missing animals and other problems in the village. "Vampires used to be monsters," explains Klinger. "You'd staple decaying Uncle George back into the casket and hope he'd go away."

Despised aristocrats

In his latest book, "In the Shadow of Dracula," Klinger explores vampire stories that influenced Bram Stoker's "Dracula," which starred a member of the next-generation of smoother talking, wealthy vamps who took blood-sucking to another level. "When the vampire becomes an aristocrat," explains Klinger, "he becomes a metaphor for those who live and feed off of other people."

If you go

GETTY IMAGES

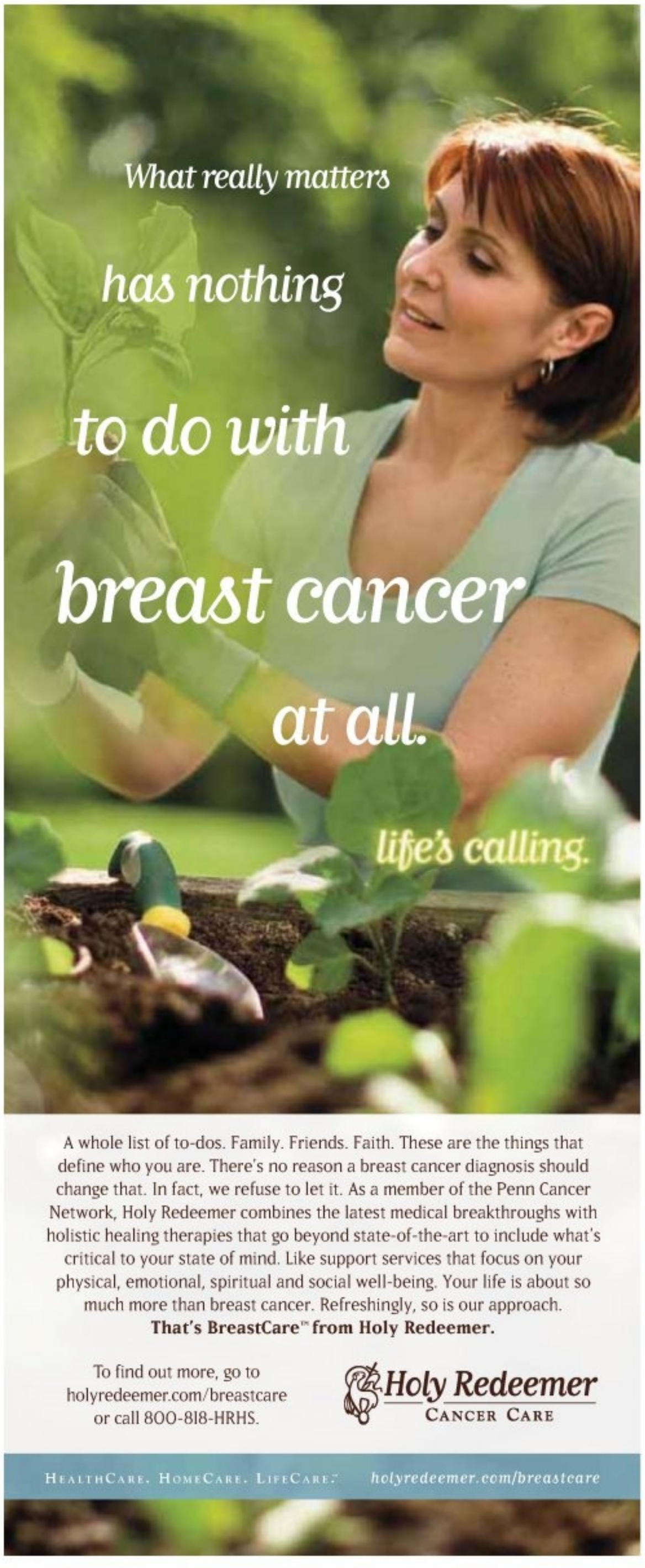
▶ Bela Lugosi played the Count on Broadway and in film.

▶ Klinger will discuss "In the Shadow of Dracula" tonight (6 p.m. to 7 p.m.) at the Rosenbach Museum and Library (2008-2010 Delancey Place), host to Bram Stoker's hand-written research notes to the novel. The museum's annual Dracula Festival runs through Oct. 29.

Teen idols

Once Drac entered show business, the jump from creepy rich guy to "Twilight" heartthrob was just a matter of time. "The whole change of the vampire started to take place in the 1920s. Dracula is still basically a monster, Nosferatu is disgusting. But then we had the play adaptation of 'Dracula,' and he's wearing an opera cloak with slick black hair. That was adopted for the movies, and there was no going back."

MONICA WEYMOUTH
monica.weymouth@metro.us



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TV watch list

DAVID GIESBRECHT /BRAVO

▶ "Work of Art"

'Work of Art: The Next Great Artist'

REALITY. Lowbrow kitsch is the highlight of tonight's season opener challenge. Do you think anyone will invoke some of the boob tube's finer moments — ahem, "Jersey Shore" — in this televised reality competition focused on highbrow pursuits? **Season premiere, 9 p.m., Bravo**

'Psych'

COMEDY. Shawn stumbles upon a dead body at the British Consulate's home. The real question isn't how he's going to use his fake psychic skills to solve the crime, but how those powers got him into the British Consulate's home in the first place (the answer involves Darth Vader). **Season premiere, 10 p.m., USA**

'American Horror Story'

DRAMA. Ben, whose cheating ways prompted the Harmon family to move into that haunted house in the first place, heads to Boston, leaving Vivien and Violet to fend for themselves. **10 p.m., FX**

'New Girl'

COMEDY. Schmidt pursues Cece, which means the Douchebag Jar is going to be overflowing. **9:30 p.m., Fox**

AMBER RAY

Song Therapy

'Ffunny Ffriends'

by Unknown Mortal Orchestra

▶ If you see this cover in a record store, it's UMO!

As the singer begins this song in a falsetto, the first thing you think is how he ruined a perfectly original beat and catchy guitar line by ripping off MGMT, Passion Pit or the Naked and Famous. But as the song soldiers on, the band find their own groove — and the crunchy rhythm and simple distorted riff make it impossible not to nod your head, as the singer proclaims, "I like all of my life." And you will, too, with this tune bouncing around in your brain. Hear it on the self-titled debut by Unknown Mortal Orchestra.

Where to hear: Spotify, iTunes. PAT HEALY

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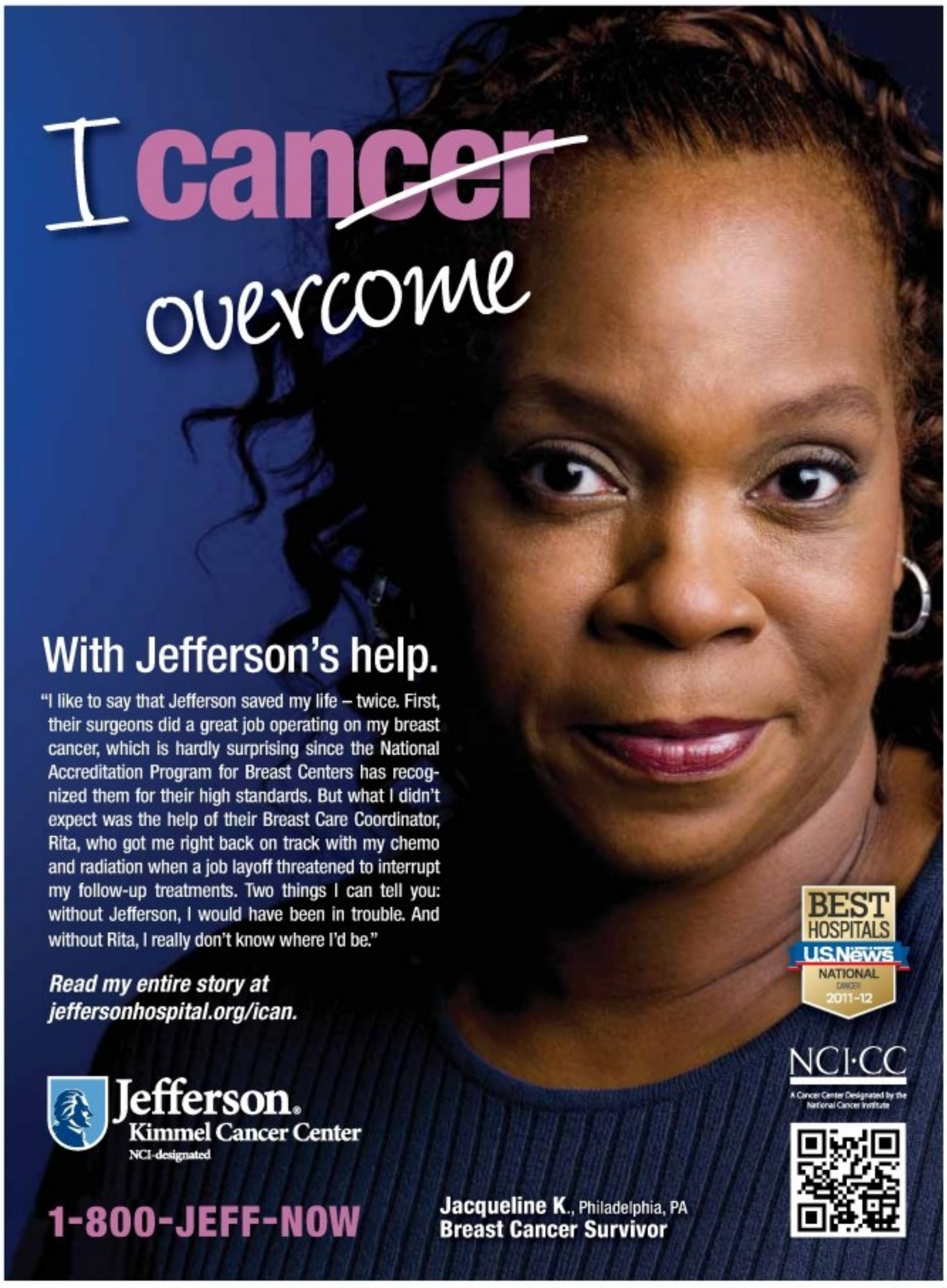
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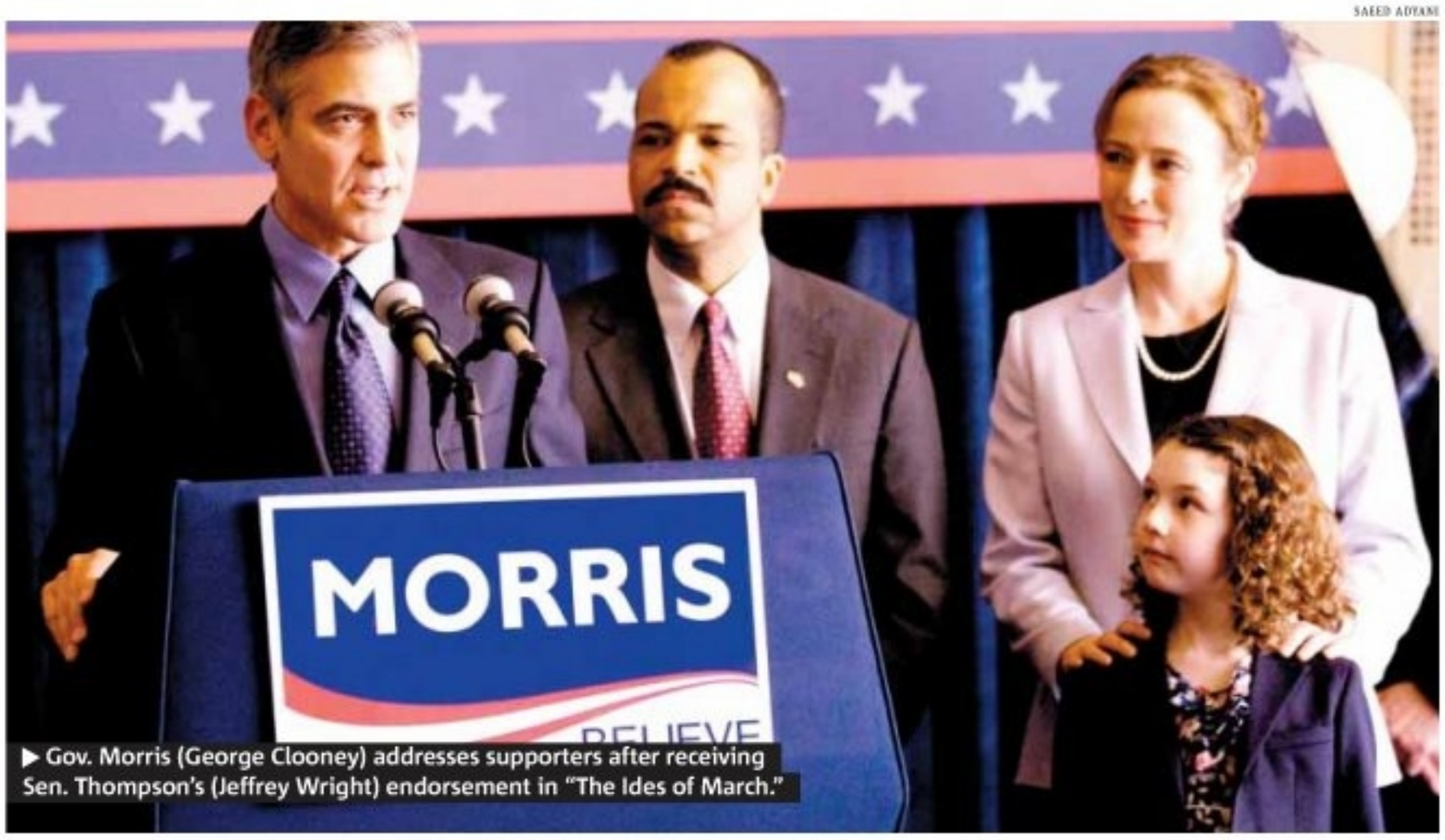

▶ Gov. Morris (George Clooney) addresses supporters after receiving Sen. Thompson's (Jeffrey Wright) endorsement in "The Ides of March."

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like an insider

Jeffrey Wright approached 'The Ides of March' as if he was making another 'Godfather' — which says a lot about his opinion of politicians

For "The Ides of March," his political drama about a fictional Democratic presidential primary race, director and star George Clooney put together a stellar cast, including Ryan Gosling, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Paul Giamatti, Marisa Tomei and ... himself. And when it came casting the role of Sen. Thompson, a primary rival of Gov. Morris (Clooney) whose endorsement could mean a nomination-clinching collection of delegates, Clooney knew just who to go to: film and stage veteran Jeffrey Wright. A Washington, D.C., native, Wright relished tackling the more corrupt side of politics shown in the film.

Your character provides a very particular commentary on politics.

I imagine the character could be perceived as having the best interests of his constituency at heart, but I read the script with just a touch of healthy cynicism. And I perceived him to be pretty much an egoist and an opportunist, which I have to say I have witnessed in some of the players down in Washington in my experiences down there — not all. There's a dynamic at work there among not only the politicians but among those who surround them, a desire to be out front, to be in a position of authority — or at least in close proximity to power — that overshadows too often, I think, the desire to do good work.

It's hard not to be at least a little cynical about politics, especially considering current events.

At the end of the day you see folks just losing sight of what the point is. The point is to lead the country in the best way forward for as many people as possible. But it's so alluring. It must be just incredibly seductive and alluring, the lifestyle and the influence and the access and the perks.

It's a big business.

It's a huge business. When you look at the numbers, it's the biggest business. There's no other sector in the world that talks in trillions of dollars the way budgets are shaped. So yes, it's the biggest business. I'm really in some ways fascinated by the mechanics behind power corrupting. I was struck by the script, reading it more as a gangster story than a political story. And that, to some extent, is how I played it, kind of like the fourth sequel in the "Godfather" series or something, you know. [Laughs] That these guys were kind of lurking around — or at least my character was lurking around — trying to figure out the quickest and most effective means to the top.

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Q&A

Did you have any real-life inspiration for your character?

Yeah, there are a couple guys. No one I want to mention, but a couple guys. It could be a little lacking in political discretion.

Q&A

How was having George Clooney as both a director and a co-star?

I was just marveling at that, because you clearly have to work from both sides, [being] mindful of the other. To do that and at the same time be just incredibly calm and at ease about it was really remarkable. I think his being an actor obviously sensitizes him to what an actor's needs are, but he was outrageously efficient. We'd shoot whole scenes in 45 minutes. Come in, you start the thing and then, "Lunch!" It was fantastic.

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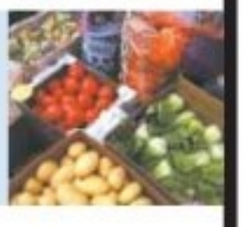
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Spring trends

Paris Fashion Week trends in review

- **Drop-waist dresses** (Chloe, Sonia Rykiel)
- **Trouser suits** (Givenchy, Yves Saint Laurent, Stella McCartney)
- **Pastels** (Chanel, Louis Vuitton, Valentino) KENYA HUNT

▶ Pastel parasols twirled at Louis Vuitton.

▶ Sonia Rykiel

▶ Stella McCartney

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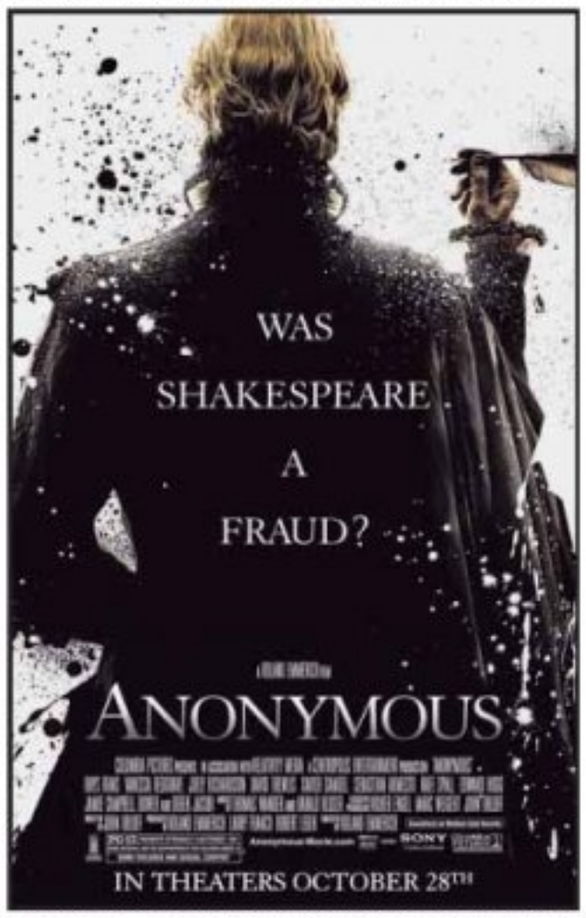

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Today in medicine

Alcohol abuse among college students

Study subjects: More than 300 undergrads at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of Washington
Location of study: U.S.
Results: College students who put up Facebook pictures showing drunken behavior are four times more likely to have a drinking problem than those who don't post such items, says a study by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.
Significance: Every year, about 1,700 college student deaths are related to alcohol.

Depression, vision loss from mild strokes

Study subjects: 200 stroke victims
Location of study: Canada
Results: A new study from the University of Montreal shows that mild strokes can cause sleeplessness, vision problems and depression.
Significance: Vigilant treatment for mild stroke patients is necessary.

LINDA CLARKE

How to make sense of your medical bills

Take stock of that pile on your desk Don't forget: Cash is king

By 2014, the federal health care reform bill will require everyone living in America to have medical insurance. Whether you decide to wait until the last minute or overhaul your coverage now, you'll need to untangle the hoopla to make the best financial choice.

"It's a complicated system, and it's important for people to understand their options," says Ankeny Minoux, president of San Jose-based non-profit Foundation for Health Coverage Education. "It might get simpler when the new regulations come into effect. Until 2014, each state has their own rules."

The FHCE works with individuals to help save on premiums or deductibles as appropriate. "The reason we set up this foundation is that the system puts people through the ringer. We can tell you the rules."

Some good news for the uninsured: An illness or accident doesn't leave you completely powerless at the hospital. Believe it or not, you can haggle.

"Don't hesitate to negotiate your bill with doctors or hospitals, and for labs or X-rays," says Mark Melrose, DO, FACEP, co-founder of Urgent Care Manhattan. "Everyone loves cash, and practice managers will often discount fees or work out payment plans [for] cash payments, especially if you ask in advance."

LINDA CLARKE
letters@metro.us

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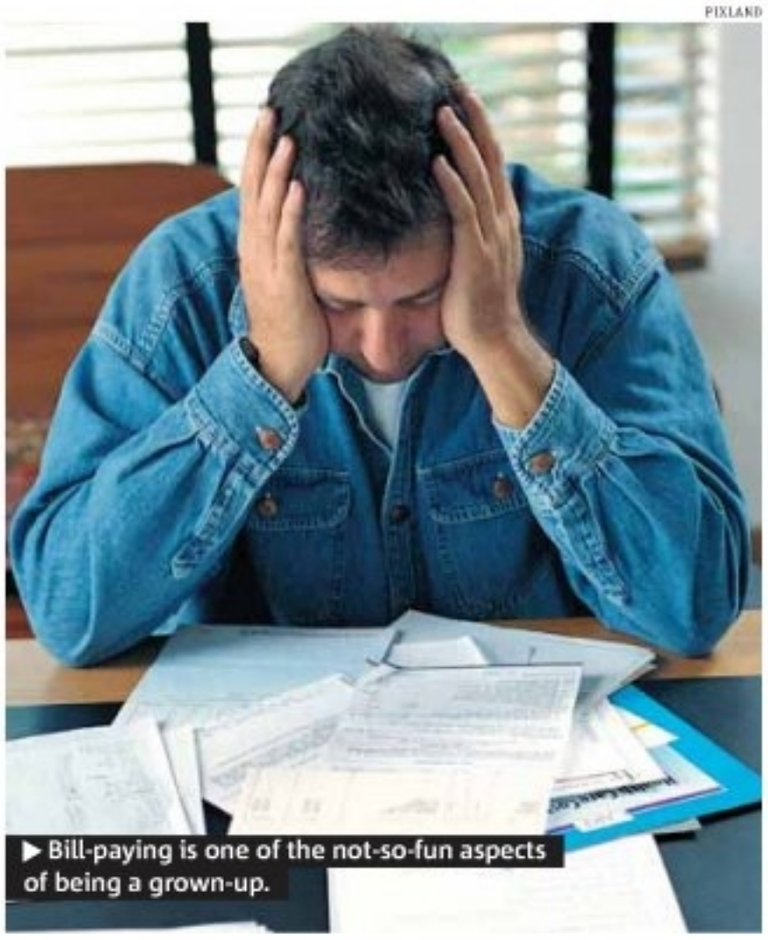

▶ Bill-paying is one of the not-so-fun aspects of being a grown-up.

Save money!

Dr. Melrose offers the following tips:

- Don't wait to go to the ER. If an illness becomes worse, treatment may become more complicated and your hospital stay will lengthen. The bill will be bigger, and you'll miss more work.
- Health insurance companies now allow adult children to remain on parents' policies until age 26.
- Health care professional schools (medical, dental, podiatry, etc.) or teaching hospitals sometimes have general clinics and/or specialty clinics that often provide care at discounted or sliding scale rates.
- Schedule elective but necessary health screenings and procedures before the end of the year. If your deductible has been met, you won't be charged out-of-pocket once the new insurance year starts in January.

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The guide to breaking up

No more drama

JONATHAN ALPERT
WWW.JONATHANALPERT.COM

There's no easy way to do it. In any breakup, someone gets hurt. But there are ways to maintain dignity and respect and lessen the blow.

Plan to meet him or her and speak in person. Relying on e-mail or telephone might seem easier for you, but not for your soon-to-be ex: Anything short of face-to-face will seem cowardly. Meet in a private place and not a public setting where the person could feel embarrassed by the news. Take responsibility and be honest. Avoid the cliche of "it's not you, it's me" — or any other generic explanations. No matter how bad the relationship might be, avoid insults. To demonize the person will only invite retaliation and perpetuate problems. You dated for several months, so he or she can't be that bad, right? That said, you both might benefit from mentioning a few things you do like.

Don't try to cushion things by saying, "But we can still be friends." A statement like that is probably more about assuaging your guilt than actually wanting to be friends, and it might provide false hope.

Finally, don't jump right back into the dating world. Way too often people get into a new relationship because they're afraid to be single. Don't be that person. Instead, take some time to reflect on the past relationship and learn a little something about yourself and the type of mate you prefer.

The question

I've been with my significant other for several months but just don't feel things are working out. What are your tips for the best way to break up with someone and make it as pain-free as possible?

– Jonathan Alpert is a licensed psychotherapist. E-mail him your questions at jonathan@jonathanalpert.com

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Rod Tallman, a retired Oregon businessman was searching for his own "sexual fountain of youth" when he literally stumbled over a 5,000 year old Asian root that is proving to be the solution to male performance issues. He now leads a team of researchers in bringing this solution to the U.S.

Ever wonder why some men seem to be serving up a satisfying sex life while you are left hungry for more? When stress levels increase, certain nutrients become imbalanced, causing a premature decline in libido, testosterone levels and reduced circulation; all negatively affecting his ability to maintain physical performance levels. Not only do intimate encounters become less frequent, they become less pleasurable too!

" I was retired and finally had the time to enjoy myself but my body was holding me back. I truly believe that sex should be as satisfying today as it was when you first started having it. Sex is a part of being healthy. It's only natural to want to have more of it and for it to be satisfying!" says Tallman.

Rod is part of a group of "everyday guys" who used their retirement funds to invest in the research of a rare combination of herbs from the far East.

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112 Degrees™ contains top-quality, all-natural ingredients such as Tribulus Terrestris, L-Tyrosine, Pueraria, and Acai, formulated to improve male sexual health and performance, as well as support overall health and vitality. However, one ingredient in the formula can't help but *stand-up* in the group.

"My husband started taking 112 Degrees™ because he was experiencing performance irregularities. After taking 112 Degrees™, he has no problems." Christy, AZ

Proof of Performance

Health professionals have noted that the "oddly-shaped root" may produce benefits such as a significant increase in the weight of the testes, higher sperm counts and a greater release of male sex hormones, which explains the plant's reputation for increasing men's sexuality. This translates into an overall better experience.

"For the last four years I have had a significant amount of trouble with frequency of urination. I've seen a significant improvement with 112 Degrees™." Jude, OR

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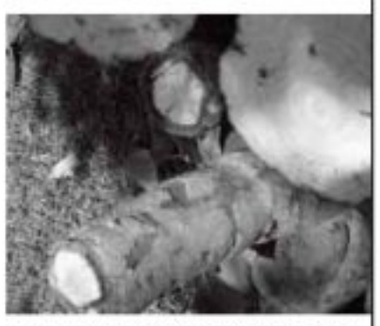

According to a 2003 article in the Asian Journal Andrology the preparations of Butea are for male erectile dysfunction. It is affectionately referred to as herbal Viagra.

"Early morning erections have returned. Sustained erections during intercourse. I am satisfied so far." John, NY

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Letters

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Pushing back against protest

Am I the only one who is still unsure what they are protesting? Corporations? You mean the guys who are working hard to put those protestors' phones, tents and backpacks on the market? Or are they protesting me? A hard-working American who needs to work because mommy and daddy don't pay my bills? What exactly are they so mad about? If you're angry you have no money — get a job. If you want to protest the way the money is being handled, protest the government. Either way, do something productive instead of blocking those of us who actually contribute to society. **RAQUEL JONES, VIA E-MAIL**

I applaud the people protesting on Wall Street and in cities throughout America. From college students to clergy, union members to teachers — and politicians — this protest represents what America truly stands for. It comes from a beautiful thing: people showing they hate economic injustice. **BRUCE BLAUSTEIN, VIA E-MAIL**

The Occupy movement is becoming ridiculous. Why am I getting harassed on my way to work to go make a living? Do you know over 50 percent of Americans don't pay taxes? That my hard work pays for their welfare? Then why am I being harassed by students who would rather scream at me then attend class and attempt to make a living? **JILL CAUGHEY, VIA E-MAIL**

The poor should pay their fair share. Taxes are the price we pay for government services. I cannot be certain, but it is reasonable to assume that poor folks require greater government services and assistance than do the wealthy. Thus, in principle, the poor should pay more. However, since the wealthy do have greater resources, perhaps we can ask them to pay as much as the poor. It is inarguable, though, that I have no claim on the wealth of others. While all men should enjoy the same legal rights and responsibilities, they will never have equal talent, opportunity or success! **JOSEPH PASULKA, VIA E-MAIL**

According to the GAO, the government has handed over $16 trillion to the banks. That is $50,000 for every man, woman and child. More than enough to pay off the National Debt. Now do you see why we take to the street to remove the banksters' boots from our necks? **CHARLES MICHAEL COUCH, VIA E-MAIL**

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Don't place too much hope on verbal commitments from others regarding their willingness to help. When you need them the most, they could be dedicating their support elsewhere.
♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Control your powers of concentration by keeping your mind only on the task at hand. If you happen to make a mistake, you should be able to catch it immediately and fix it.
♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Something you've neglected for far too long might hamper your freedom of mobility. What you've been sweeping under the rug could suddenly create a storm of dust bunnies.
♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Indecisiveness is an attitude that can easily be corrected. If you continue to persist being wishy-washy, your friends might not want to deal with you.
♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Guard against continually attempting to do things that are way beyond your mental or physical capabilities. Face up to your shortcomings.
♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Be budget-minded; if you aren't, funds you've earmarked for necessities shan't be there for you down the line, when you need them to pay the bills. Think ahead.
♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Be extremely selective concerning with whom you spend your leisure time so that the wrong types don't ruin your fun. You need to laugh a bit.
♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Certain people tend to be somewhat caustic and/or critical, but you don't have to respond in kind. Set a good example by being extremely tolerant when dealing with everybody.
♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** If you want special items that you own to enjoy long lives, pay attention to your care in handling them. Breakage is a product of carelessness.
♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** When negotiating something of significance, make certain all parties involved understand the small points as well as the main issues in the agreement, so no one later can claim ignorance.
♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Methodically plot your course of action before you jump into the fray, or you could end up being the victim of your own handiwork. Look ahead.
♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** If you let your friends look upon you as their rock of Gibraltar today, they're likely to bring more trouble into your life than you care to handle. Put limitations on your availability.
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Across
1 Hushed
6 Mae West persona
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41 Show teeth
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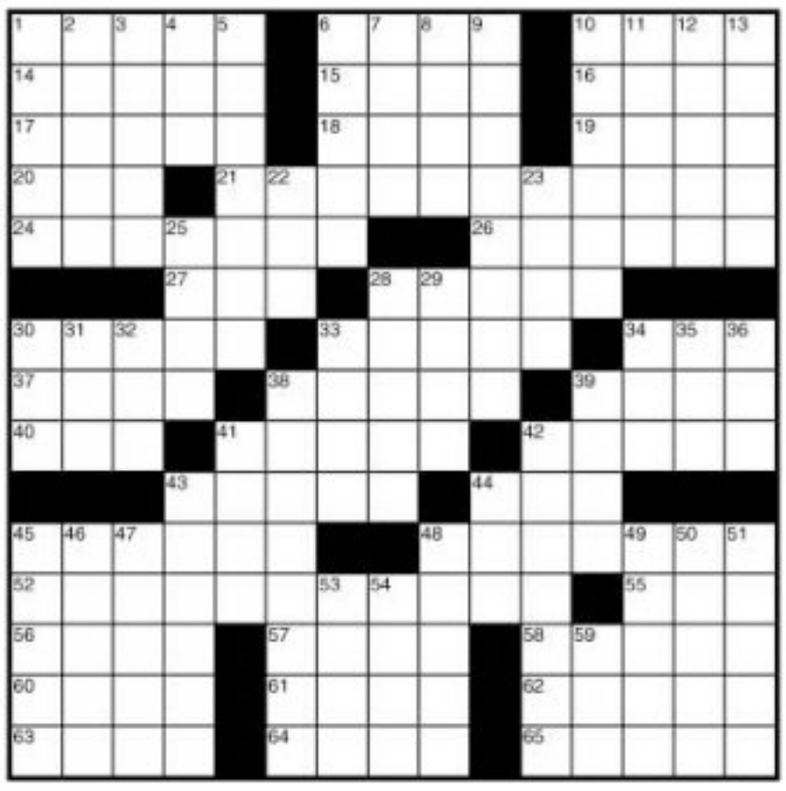
45 At large
48 Nog alternative
52 Income sources (2 wds.)
55 One-tenth of MLX
56 It may be posted
57 Elbow grease
58 Mukluk wearer
60 Failing that
61 Endangered trees
62 Sign up for
63 Riverbank growth
64 Pinch of salt
65 Jazzy Della __

Down
1 Campus areas
2 Deal with a knot
3 Violinist __ Stern
4 Always, to Poe
5 More than doubled
6 Smoke or mist
7 Nautical position
8 Ghostly noise
9 Cleanses
10 Proves false
11 Met highlights
12 Player's rep
13 The "March King"
22 Witch, to Shakespeare
23 Big town
25 Luau strings
28 Erupt
29 Calm
30 Express grief
31 Southeast Asian
32 Coffee dispenser
33 Snatch
34 Turn sharply
35 It may be hard-boiled
36 Senate response
38 Like first drafts
39 Foam
41 Lath
42 More domineering
43 Surveyed
44 Butter serving
45 Deep yellow
46 Blues street
47 Cultivate
48 __ corgi
49 Perceptive
50 Leafy vines
51 Petrol measure
53 Burger mate
54 Novak and Basinger
59 Compass pt.



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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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New-look Flyers trying to change shootout luck

Orange and Black have consistently ranked among worst in shootouts ◗ Newcomers like Jagr, Voracek could improve weakness ◗ Home opener tonight at the Wells Fargo Center

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Newcomers like Jagr, left, and Bryzgalov could help the Flyers' traditionally bad power play this season.

Think how much different the Flyers' postseason life might have been last year if they had done a better job in shootouts.

By itself it wouldn't have assured the Flyers any greater success than the fallen Phillies or stumbling Eagles, since it wouldn't have mattered past the end of the regular season.

But think about it.

Peter Laviolette is.

"It certainly deserves attention," Laviolette said. "Based on even last year, that might've been the difference. If we'd done a better job there, we might've finished first overall."

Instead, their 3-7 shootout record (26th in the NHL last season), with the 29th-ranked save percentage among goalies, undoubtedly cost them the top seed in the East and a favorable playoff matchup. And this is hardly a one-year trend. Since the shootout began in 2006, the Flyers have ranked 15th, 28th, 22nd, 19th and 22nd, respectively.

But the Flyers are hoping that will change, with Jaromir Jagr, Jakub Voracek and Wayne Simmonds added to the mix while Ilya Bryzgalov handles the load in the net.

"Last year, when we would score, we'd get scored upon more," said Danny Briere, who has scored on 40 percent of his shootout attempts as a Flyer. "And when we didn't score, our goalies would make the saves but then let one in. We have to get in better sync. The last few years, it seemed at the end of the year those two to three extra points would've helped us."

No one knows if greater shootout success will pay dividends come playoff time. But the Flyers would love to find out.

JON MARKS
sports@metro.us

On TV today

Canucks at Flyers, 7:30 p.m. (CSN)

What to watch

1. Vancouver will attempt to match the 2009 Pens, who shook off losing to Detroit by winning the Stanley Cup the following year. Prior to that, you have to go back to Wayne Gretzky's 1983-84 Edmonton Oilers.

2. Daniel and Henrik Sedin aren't just the NHL's only set of twins, they're among the top players in the game. Both have won the Art Ross scoring trophy as well as the league's MVP. They're lethal on the power play, accounting for 26 goals.

3. The Sedins and Ryan Kesler (15 PPGs) aren't the only ones to watch on the power play. The Flyers figure to be vastly improved with future Hall of Famer Jaromir Jagr, who has 181 career power play goals, and the slick-passing Claude Giroux.

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GETTY IMAGES

▶ Juan Castillo is safe — at least for now, according to the Eagles.

Help on the way? Birds deny report about consultant

When in doubt, hire a consultant.

Or not.

According to an ESPN report, the Eagles were considering hiring a defensive consultant to help their struggling defense. The team wanted to evaluate Juan Castillo's unit this week against Washington before making a move during the bye week.

But Reid, through an Eagles spokesman, denied that report yesterday, saying that he needs to fix the 12 turnovers generated by the team's offense in four straight losses.

-10

Eagles turnover ratio, tied for worst in the NFL with Pittsburgh. The Birds also lead the league with 15 total turnovers.

The Eagles are ranked 15th in overall defense — 30th against the run, 27th in points allowed — and are at an NFL-worst, minus-10 in turnover ratio.

After Sunday's loss, Castillo maintained he had "the answers" to fix the defense.

"We're getting better. We have to win games," Castillo said.

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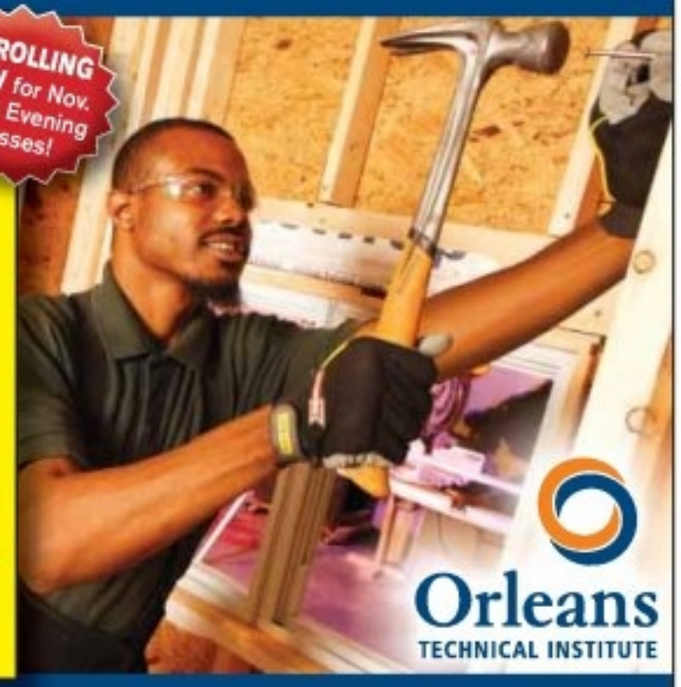

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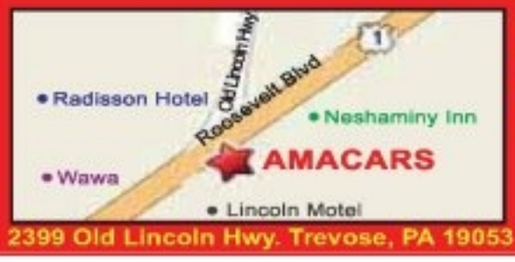

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Rollins wants to stay, but needs 'money and years'

J-Roll, Phillies clean out lockers ◗ Shortstop says home team has first shot ◗ Amaro wants him back ◗ Rollins is free agent after World Series

At this time last year, Jimmy Rollins was asked about Jayson Werth's possible departure. "Why should I leave," Rollins said as he turned the subject to himself.

Well, Rollins, much like Werth in October 2010, is preparing for free agency and he answered his own question at yesterday's end-of-year media scrum.

"Money and years" is what Rollins wants. The Phillies' shortstop since the 2000 season apparently wants a deal that spans half a decade.

"I'm looking to get five years, if it's going to be shorter, it would have to be a fifth-year option, my option," Rollins said.

"When I put that hat on, when I got drafted, and I held that bat and put that Phillies T-shirt on, it looked really good on me ... I never thought about putting on any other colors but the red and white pinstripes."
JIMMY ROLLINS

Unlike Werth's final address to the press, which smacked of a definite goodbye, the impression is that Rollins would like to give the Phillies the opportunity to retain him.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Rollins

"There's no doubt they [the Phillies] have first shot to get something done," Rollins said. "Hopefully we will get something done."

Perhaps it will get done since the Phillies' leadoff hitter would prefer to stay and the organization would like to re-sign him.

"There's no question that we want Jimmy back and to be in our uniform and play shortstop for us for the next several years," GM Ruben Amaro said. "That kind of depends if we get to the finish line on it. But Jimmy knows where we stand on it."

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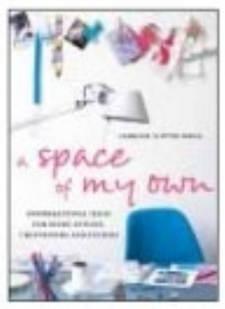
▶ Get inspired by the pretty work spaces found in "A Space of My Own," such as this one full of personal photos and fun colors.

A room of one's own

How to design a calming, inspiring at-home workspace for all of your side hustles, freelance assignments and, sure, Facebook stalking

Let's face it — whether you're designing a jewelry line, writing your screenplay or simply organizing your taxes, you need a work space at home. Only here, there's no office manager regulating your setup. "That's the great joy of it. You can bring in your own pictures, have whatever color on the wall and hang things up that inspire you when you're working," says Caroline Clifton-Mogg, author of "A Space of My Own: Inspirational Ideas for Home Offices, Craft Rooms and Studies." She shows us how to set up the perfect creative nook.



Know thy space: "Before you start setting up, think carefully about what you want to use the space for," advises Clifton-Mogg. "What you want to use it for dictates how you arrange it. Some people might want to use it for crafts — so they would need storage for rows of fabric or a sewing machine, which is different from storing books. Also, make a list of things you're going to use most and keep them at reach, like on your first shelf."

Think outside the box: "Your work surface doesn't have to be a [generic] desk. It can be an antique table or an old piece of wood — as long as it's deep enough for your needs, your computer and lights," says Clifton-Mogg, who stresses the importance of personalizing. "There are so many containers out there: wicker baskets, handy man tool boxes, wooden fruit boxes and wine crates."

Storage is key: You don't need a whole room in order to have storage, says Clifton-Mogg. For those of us squeezing a desk into the bedroom, she says: "Plain shelves — deep ones and shallow ones — are all you need. You can put boxes on some and books on others." And, she advises, "If you have the space, always add more shelves — because work expands."

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It's playtime in

Although known more for nightlife, the Washington Square West and Gayborhood areas are quickly becoming hot spots for families with children

When Mark and Sylvia Sobol were toying with the idea of moving from Northeast Philly to Center City, several years after emigrating from the Ukraine and Armenia, their friends thought they were crazy.

"In the Northeast they would all say, 'Don't go, it's not a place for children.' But we love the urban lifestyle," says Sylvia, 31, a music teacher and mom to 4-year-old Paul-Simon and 17-month-old Isabella. Mark also teaches music.

But once the Sobols got settled in their Washington Square West home, they looked around and found a neighborhood teeming with kids — and nowhere for them to go.

Quoted

"This area wasn't child-oriented whatsoever. You had the parents here, but not the services. Then over this summer all these kid-oriented businesses just popped out."
SYLVIA SOBOL

Last month, after a year of planning, the Sobols opened EuroKids Learning Group, a day care and after-school enrichment center at 1134 Pine St., in the overlapping Wash West/Gayborhood neighborhoods. And they're not the only ones who realized kid-centric spots were in demand in an area once associated primarily with its hopping nightlife scene.

"This area wasn't child-oriented whatsoever. You had the parents here, but not the services," Sylvia says. "Then over this summer all these kid-oriented businesses just popped out."

One of the most noticeable is Nest, a 12,000-square-foot space with an indoor playground, activity rooms, a portrait studio, a kids' hair salon, a toy and clothing boutique and a lounge for weary parents. It opened in August in the former Signatures strip club at 13th and Locust streets.

"We wanted Nest to be hip and cool, and the neighborhood is perfect for that," says Farrell Ender, half of one of the three couples, all with young kids, behind Nest.

As for the nightlife, Ender says it hasn't been an issue.

"It's like two worlds," he says. "During the day, all you see is moms and strollers walking by. Then it's a totally different scene at night. The neighborhood is unique that way."

RACHEL VIGODA
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Center City

▶ Nest, which includes an indoor playground, is now open at 1301 Locust St.

Playground upgrades soon

Friends of Seger Park Playground, a nonprofit formed by local parents to improve the popular Wash West playground, is raising $1.4 million for a major overhaul. The renovations will include new equipment and a water "sprayground" (since you're not supposed to open fire hydrants).

"It's such a heavily used park. At any one time, you might have 100 children," says Adrienne Kenton, head of the organization and a mother of two. "And it's such a great resource for parents in the neighborhood, to meet up and exchange information."

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